WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual assault occurs when a person engages in sexual contact with you, without your consent.

Sexual assault includes all unwanted sexual touching that occurs without your consent, such as kissing, hugging, groping, and penetration.

Sexual assault is a serious criminal offence under the Canadian Criminal Code, and it can carry a maximum penalty of life in prison for the accused.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Victoria Resources
Vancouver Island 24 hour Crisis Line
Phone: 1-888-494-3888
Victim Link (24/7 Help Line)
Phone: 1-800-563-0808, toll-free, BC-wide
Victoria Sexual Assault Centre
Website: http://www.vsac.ca
Men’s Trauma Centre
Website: http://www.menstrauma.com/
Island Sexual Health Society
Website: http://www.islandsexualhealth.org
Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre
Website: http://www.vcapcc.com
Spousal Assault Victim Support Program
Phone: 250-356-1201 (Victoria) 250-391-2864

Southern Gulf Islands
Lady Minto Hospital (*Salt Spring Island)
Phone: 250-538-4800
Island Women Against Violence (*Salt Spring Island)
24 Hour Crisis Line: Toll-free 1-877-435-7544 or (250) 537-0735
Website: http://www.iwav.org/
3rd Party Reporting Options
Outreach worker from Island Women Against Violence
Forensic Nurse Examiner
FNEs are specially trained to provide care to survivors of sexual assault. They are also trained to find and collect evidence if you choose to do so.

SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTING: A GUIDE FOR SURVIVORS

Including community resources, options for reporting, information on the criminal process, and legal definitions of sexual assault

Prepared by PBSC Students at the University of Victoria
WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual contact between two or more people requires explicit, voluntary, continuing, and verbal consent to all specific sexual acts.

- Being silent or not verbally saying "no", does NOT mean that you consented to the sexual activity.
- Being married/in a relationship with someone, going on a date, dressing in a particular way, flirting, or sending someone nude photos, does NOT entitle someone to engage in sexual contact without your consent.
- Agreeing to or engaging in sexual contact with someone, does NOT mean that you cannot change your mind; you can withdraw your consent at any point in time.
- Agreeing to or engaging in a specific sexual act with someone does NOT mean that you have automatically consented to all subsequent sexual activity; you can revoke your consent at any point in time.
- Being under the influence of alcohol or any other substance is NOT an invitation to be sexually touched. You cannot consent to sexual activity if you are unconscious or impaired by alcohol/drugs.

REPORTING OPTIONS

Make a Police Report
- See “Criminal Court Procedure”

Inform the police a crime occurred
- You may inform the police about the assault, but ask that the police don't investigate it.
- Police will usually honour this request, except if there are public safety concerns (like if there is a child at risk of harm).

Report via a third party
- If you are over 19, this option allows you to remain anonymous to the police.
- To do this, you will fill out a form at a third party organization, and they will send it to the police on your behalf.
- Your report is completely anonymous, even to the organization; your name is never attached to your incident report.
- You can fill out the form in as much or as little detail as you wish.

Report to your school or employer
- If the sexual assault occurred at school or work, there may be options available to you through those organizations.

CRIMINAL COURT PROCEDURE

1) Reporting the crime to police
   - To do this, you will make a statement to the police.

2) Police determine next steps
   - This includes an investigation, where police contact those involved and collect evidence.

3) Criminal charges laid
   - This is done if Crown Counsel (the prosecution) decides to charge the accused.
   - The accused may or may not be arrested and taken into custody.

4) The Court case
   - You will be called to testify as a witness.
   - You also may have some aspects of your personal life, including medical records, added into evidence.

5) Decision of the Court
   - The judge or jury will decide if the accused is guilty, not guilty, or not criminally responsible.
   - If found guilty, you will be able to prepare and read a Victim Impact Statement to assist the judge in sentencing.